

Idaho Trade Token Newsletter

Boise, Idaho

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News

This is the last **Idaho Trade Token Newsletter** of this series. Hopefully I will be able to resume it after the Idaho token catalog has been published. I feel good about this publication. It has helped keep the Idaho trade token collectors in touch with each other, it facilitated our three (so far) gatherings, and it allowed the stories behind a number of tokens to be told. In addition the good fellowship we have enjoyed has been continued and extended to some "new" collectors. Thanks to those of you who have put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard) and contributed articles. Also, to everyone who has been forthcoming about their token holdings and new finds goes my special appreciation. We all desire a "complete" catalog of Idaho tokens and that is what it takes to make it happen.

To keep everyone posted on the plans for our gathering in Rexburg on July 21 and 22, I will put out some sort of mailing this summer. But, in the meantime, mark your calendars now! Of course, if you have an e-mail address known to me, I will send periodic messages that way. If you happen to change addresses, please keep me posted, either via e-mail or at the address below. If you mail news, I'll be happy to pass it on to the others via e-mail.

The Fall, 1999 issue of **Idaho Yesterdays** is an issue I'd recommend seeking out. Of course you already have it if you are a member of the Idaho Historical Society. The cover is a color photo of part of Burke and the Hecla Mine buildings. One can make out the Combination (behind the red-roofed building) where we stopped during last summer's meeting. The feature article by George Venn, "Singing the Silver Valley Cannonball" is well worth reading!

St. Maries Ramblings

Sometimes token research leads me around in strange ways. The following stories were picked up as I was trying to develop a story about the C & M Hotel tokens from St. Maries. A "complete" story has yet to be told, but some of the items that pop up while researching are worth recording here. As an example, I was a bit surprised when looking at a detailed map of St. Maries to find there is a Mutch Creek running through the town. It was named for a distant branch of my family that settled in the area.

The town of St. Maries grew up near the confluence of the St. Maries and St. Joe rivers where Joseph Fisher and his brothers built a sawmill in 1888. Fisher became the first postmaster of St. Maries the next year. The village incorporated in 1902, its economy based largely on the lumber industry. The St. Maries sawmills processed timber and shipped the finished lumber down the St. Joe River through Lake Coeur d'Alene to the railroad at Coeur d'Alene. Another aspect of St. Maries developed in these early years as it became a destination for excursions on the waterways. Hotels and saloons were built near the waterfront to accommodate the visitors. Fire, the nemesis of many towns, visited St. Maries. The March 6, 1908 issue of the **St. Maries Gazette** reported a "close call" was experienced when a gas lamp started a fire in William McCarter's St. Maries hotel. This experience was evidently not warning enough as the March 20 issue of the paper (the March 14 issue was missing) commented on rebuilding efforts. I found the following in the **Coeur d'Alene Evening Press** for March 18, 1908.

"Fire Sweeps St. Maries - Business District Burned with a loss of \$60,000.

"A conflagration originating in the kitchen of the St. Maries hotel swept the town of St. Maries last evening, destroying the business district extending from the Red Collar line docks to the Lumbermen's bank.

"The fire started at about 6:30 o'clock in the evening and was discovered in its inception. The fire companies and citizens both responded immediately to the alarm and did effective work toward extinguishing the flames, but the buildings were all of frame and their efforts seemed fruitless. The conflagration soon had the hotel enveloped in flames and at its mercy, and from then on it spread rapidly to the adjoining business houses. The flames leaped from building to building, igniting each in its turn until by 8:30 o'clock the fire had reached a vacant space between it and the Lumbermen's bank. This space gave the firemen an opportunity to successfully combat its further progress and it was here that it was extinguished. The Lumbermen's bank was more or less scorched, but beyond this no damage was done to it. The fire was brought under control a few minutes before 9 o'clock. Shortly before it was subdued the steamer Colfax and Harrison, a tug for the St. Joe Lumber company, arrived upon the scene and gave much assistance to the firemen. It appeared for a while that the fire would spread beyond the block in which it was raging and into another block across the street, where a number of other business houses were located, among them the Colquhoun hardware store, owned and operated by F. S. Colquhoun of this city. The Skelton & Warren merchandise firm, in anticipation of this, moved their goods out of the store, and they were considerably damaged by reason of moisture and disarrangement of the stock.

"The damage resulting from the destruction of the business houses and stocks contained in them is placed between \$50,000 and \$60,000. All the buildings and stocks were covered by insurance. Those destroyed were the Gordon saloon, the Marvin saloon, the Gem restaurant, St. Maries hotel, Winship & Henderson general merchandise store, and S. E. Mandle's saloon."

The **St. Maries Gazette** of March 20 reported that Mr. McCarter would build a 3-story cement block hotel on the same block as the one taken by fire. Another hotel was being planned as well, but with no indication of the owner. Business in the town was promising as "within two days after the fire, two of the saloon men burned out were doing business in temporary shacks on the dock in front of their old places of business."

This same issue carried the first advertisement I have found for the Chicago & Milwaukee Hotel, David Ajduckovic, Proprietor. It claimed "New Building, New Furnishings" which suggests that it is the other hotel built after the fire, although a 1941 Christmas ad indicated the business started in 1907. Ajduckovic's hotel was named for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad which was constructing its Pacific Coast Extension through St. Maries. The coming of the railroad was heralded as great news in St. Maries. The town would be on the map as far more than a (literally) backwater town. The **St. Maries Gazette** of December 11, 1908 presented sketches of many of the businesses of the town. Of interest to token collectors are these:

"Hotels and Restaurants. Thanks to the energy and enterprise of Mr. William McCarter, one of the oldest resident business men of the town, the hotel accommodation is well up with the demands of the traveling public. Mr. McCarter suffered a heavy loss last spring when his



large hotel was burned to the ground. Nothing daunted, however, he at once set to work to rebuild and within a couple of months had a block 100 x 80 feet and two stories high erected and ready for business. Later on another block of about the same dimensions was begun and is being fitted up for hotel purposes in approved modern style. With the completion of this building the new St. Maries hotel will accommodate upwards of one hundred guests.

"The Hotel Mountain View is another well equipped hostelry, capable of accommodating a large number of guests. This hotel was built some years ago by Mr. Jos. Fisher. It is at present by Mrs. L. W. Lane and being well managed enjoys a good run of patronage.

"The town can boast of several good restaurants outside of the regular hotel dining rooms, all of which are well conducted, and where excellent meals can be had at all times.

"The Saloon Trade. There are at present seven saloons doing business within the city limits, four of them being located in the east end and two in the new addition. They are run by as decent a lot of proprietors as one can meet. They are known as 'Log Cabin' by G. E. Marvin; the St. Maries by McCarter & Glidden; 'White Pine' by Alcorn & Baumgartner; the 'Idaho Bar' by L. Demars; the 'Owl' by F. C. Folmer' the 'California Wine house' by Geo. Lashbrook; and the 'C. & M.' by D. Ajdukovic, the last two named being the 'wet goods' emporiums in the west end.

"Amusement. In the present stage of its development our town is rather short of amusement facilities, there being only one place devoted to amusement now open, and that is but a recent innovation. We refer to the pool and billiard room lately opened by L. M. Lester in the McCarter block. Mr. Lester has a good room, neatly furnished and provided with four tables. Outside of this establishment there is nothing in the shape of amusement unless it be the various lodges of fraternal organizations, all of which are in a prosperous condition and well patronized these long evenings."

At midnight on June 9, 1914 Kootenai County went dry after the "wets" lost a county-wide election. The bar in the C & M Hotel changed to a soft drink establishment as did the others in the town. The **St. Maries Gazette** suggested a solution in the May 22 issue:

"A Saloon Near Ferrell. When Kootenai county goes dry, the thirsty ones in this city and vicinity can take a launch and go up the river a little east of the town of Ferrell and get all they want in the way of liquid refreshments. A short time ago, Mr. Raftrey of St. Joe purchased a five-acre tract on the Hooper ranch about a mile east of Ferrell. Here he has erected a suitable building for a saloon and having secured a license from the Shoshone county officials and Uncle Sam, will open for business at an early date. A good launch could make the trip from St. Maries in about two hours. Clarkia on the Elk River branch is also a wet town."

Born in Yugoslavia August 14, 1878, David Ajduckovic came to America in 1905 and made his way west to Idaho. After establishing hotel, restaurant and saloon in St. Maries, David sent for his brother, Andrew, who joined him in 1909. Andrew was born in 1888 and, after serving in World War I, became very active in the American Legion, Elks, and Eagles lodges. He served as Commander of the Benewah Post 25 of the American Legion, and became

known as "Legion Andy" throughout the northwest for his work with the Legion.

Andy died in the Walla Walla, Washington Veterans Hospital on January 21, 1943, and was survived by his wife Marie, his brother Dave, and one nephew in Lewiston. Dave, a bachelor active in the Eagles lodge, continued to operate



the C. & M. until it burned in 1946. The following year he rebuilt the C. & M. as a tavern (shown is a Christmas, 1954 ad) and operated it until his death on April 18, 1955 in St. Maries. Andy's wife Marie lived until 1967.

There are four token varieties known to me from the C. & M. Hotel. All are round and brass. There appears to have been one early order for tokens, as there are three denominations using the same obverse die. The 24mm 5¢ piece as shown above, is known in two examples. The 10¢ (one example) and 25¢ (5 examples) tokens are of the same size. It must have been confusing for all concerned to have all denominations so similar. I presume the order was placed that way as it was cheaper, with fewer dies to cut. The confusion may explain the other 5¢ variety being smaller, at 21mm.

One last St. Maries item I found was the connection to the pair of boots I have in the garage. During my first three summers between sessions at the University of Idaho, I worked for the Forest Service. By the end of the first week on the job, I had figured out that if you weren't wearing a pair of White's Logger boots, you were a real novice. I made it through the summer with the boots I had, but then bought a pair of White's for the next two years. These boots fit like a glove after the break-in period, wore like iron, but were cold as ice. I still have them, they still fit well, and will probably last me another 35 years. The connection is that John Porter White had a shop in St. Maries from 1902 until 1915 where he made the calked boots that would become famous in the forests of the west. He relocated to Spokane in 1915 and his son carried on the business from there.

Troy Lunch Tickets

Two more cardboard meal tickets have been reported to me. Unfortunately I did not get the colors of them, just photocopies. But, once again, these pieces are interesting and promise to yield a great story. Note that one card is from Vollmer and the other from Troy. John P. Vollmer was a prominent Lewiston banker and merchant who was instrumental in bringing the railroad to Lewiston. He had a desire to be immortalized by having a town named after himself, so he invested in an area east of Moscow known as Huff's Gulch. A post office was established in 1890 and Vollmer was on the map. A local election in 1898 changed the name to Troy, leaving John P. without a legacy, but not for long.

In 1895 the Nez Perce Indian Reservation southeast of Lewiston was opened to settlement. One of the new towns formed was named Chicago. With a name like that, the Post Office was reluctant to abide by that name, so the town was renamed Ilo for the daughter of the town's prominent merchant, O. W. Leggett. In 1904 a fire destroyed most of the town, but it was soon rebuilt. From 1907 to 1909, John P. Vollmer's Camas Prairie Railroad extended its tracks south from Lewiston, but the tracks missed Ilo by mile. A townsite built on the north side of the tracks at this point was named Vollmer, thus reestablishing the name. Ilo, not wanting to miss the opportunity to have rail

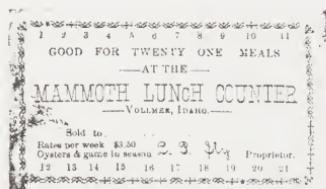
mmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm



The air is filled with the magical spirit of the Yuletide. And our hearts are filled with sincere good wishes for all of our friends and neighbors!

C. & M. Tavern
Finest Cigars
St. Maries, Idaho

mmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Good for 21 Meals

At The

SEATTLE CAFE.
L. P. SLY. Prop.

Oysters and Game in Season.

TROY. IDAHO.

13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21

service, moved the entire town to the south side of the tracks. The result was two rival towns, Ilo and Vollmer, separated by the railroad.

This state of affairs continued until the two towns were finally consolidated on June 17, 1920. At a community picnic on June 18 a mock wedding was performed between "Miss Ilo" and "Mr. Vollmer" with the result being Craigmont. The compromise name was in honor of Colonel William Craig, the first permanent white settler in Idaho. Again Vollmer lost his legacy, and we are left with some tokens that are from Vollmer, but only research can prove to which Vollmer they belong. These tokens are as follows.

#VOL-1 THE ELITE / VOLLMER / IDAHO // GOOD FOR / 6 1/4 ¢ / IN TRADE 21mm rd br [1 known] This piece is probably from Frank J. O'Malley's Elite Confectionery, Billiard and Pool Room in connection, as listed in a 1910 Lewiston area directory. This Vollmer is the later one that became Craigmont.

#VOL-2 S & L / POOL ROOM / VOLLMER, / IDAHO. (beads) // GOOD FOR / 5¢ / IN TRADE 21mm rd al [3 known] The only reference I have found that may relate to this business is in the 1914 Bradstreet for the Camas Prairie Vollmer: Spindler & Long - livery (a pool table may easily have been part of the business - that was not an uncommon combination.)



#VOL-2(A) S & L / POOL ROOM / VOLLMER, / IDAHO. (denticles) // GOOD FOR / 5¢ / IN TRADE 21mm rd al [1 known]

#VOL-3 G E / VOLLMER / IDA. // GOOD FOR / 5¢ / IN TRADE 21mm rd br [3 known] The

1908 Idaho Gazetteer lists Harry Gilmore and William Espay - livery in the Vollmer that was to become Craigmont. Again this is only a possibility.

#VOL-4 VOLLMER / POOL HALL / VOLLMER / IDAHO // GOOD FOR / 5¢ / IN TRADE 21mm rd br [1 known] I have found no references to this business, but it is likely to be from the newer Vollmer as well. Its style is not of the 1890s.



One other point regarding the meal tickets that started this article is regarding the proprietor of the Mammoth Lunch Counter in Vollmer and the Seattle Cafe in Troy (which were probably in the same building in the late 1890s). The name had a familiar ring, so I looked in my notes. There was a Lorenzo P. Sly who was a tailor at 117 North 7th Street in Boise in 1912. Harry Gordon worked at this establishment and later took it over and operated it as the O K Pressary & Hattery. He later sold second-hand goods there, and for a reason unknown to me, issued tokens with just his name and address. These mavericks are catalogued as #BO-131.

Since there could be other people named L. P. Sly, I checked the Ricks College Western Historical Marriage index and found the only entry for an L. P. Sly was for Lorenzo P. Sly of Moscow who married Ada Miksell, also of Moscow, on October 22, 1898. The 1910 Census shows a Lorin P. Sly, age 35, born in Maine living in Boise with his wife Lilly L., age 33, born in Sweden, and their 10 year old daughter Lillian, born in Utah. The wife's name does not correspond, but errors have worked their way into the records on others, so I am not yet ready to discount the possibility that Lorenzo P. Sly moved from Troy to Utah to Boise and changed occupations along the way. Somewhere out there is the answer!

Another Maverick Attributed

Dan Lute obtained a neat J. M. Brunswick & Balke Co. maverick token from HANLEY & IRVINE some time ago. We listed it in the Maverick Column of the TAMS Journal, and Louie Stubler, a saloon specialist from Wisconsin, found a listing for the Hanley and Irvine saloon partnership in Atlanta, Idaho. His reference was the 1884 **Rocky Mountain and Pacific Northwest Directory**. I have not seen that particular directory, but the 1886 Polk's Idaho Gazetteer and other references show William Irvine as owning a saloon in Atlanta. The date corresponds to the JMB&B reverse, the token's 25¢ value corresponds to the high prices experienced in a remote town like Atlanta, and the token came from this region, I am confident this is a good attribution. Unfortunately I don't have a photo of this great piece to show at this time, but if you are a TAMS member, check out maverick #15397 in this month's issue of the **Journal**.

No Pool??? No Cards???

I will leave you with an ad I found in a 1921 Chinook, the yearbook of the Coeur d'Alene High School. This business was putting on its best appearance with this ad. It makes me wonder why they needed to have the tokens that are catalogued as #CODA-39: INLAND TOBACCO CO. / COEUR D'ALENE / IDA. // GOOD FOR / 2 1/2° 2 1/2° / IN TRADE 21mm rd [sq co] br. It is known in three examples. The Inland Tobacco Company was evidently short-lived as the only directory reference I find for it is in the 1921 Bradstreet directory. The 1929 Bradstreet shows it as being taken over by Daniel W. McDonnell's tobacco company.

And, In Closing...

Again, I'd like to thank you all for being so receptive to this newsletter and to keeping the fellowship among Idaho collectors at a high level. Have a Happy Holiday Season and may the 2000s bring all the best to you and yours.

Best regards,

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